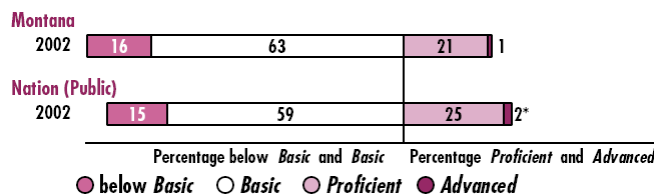


The writing assessment of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) measures narrative, informative, and persuasive writing—three purposes identified in the NAEP framework. The NAEP writing scale ranges from 0 to 300.

### Overall Writing Results for Montana

- The average scale score for fourth-grade students in Montana was 149.
- Montana's average score (149) was not found to be significantly different<sup>1</sup> from that of the nation's public schools (153).
- Students' average scale scores in Montana were higher than those in 9 jurisdictions<sup>2</sup>, not significantly different from those in 21 jurisdictions, and lower than those in 17 jurisdictions.
- The percentage of students who performed at or above the NAEP *Proficient* level was 22 percent. The percentage of students who performed at or above the *Basic* level was 84 percent.

### Student Percentage at Each Achievement Level



### Performance of NAEP Reporting Groups in Montana

Reporting groups	Percentage of students	Average Score	Percentage of students at			
			Below <i>Basic</i>	<i>Basic</i>	<i>Proficient</i>	<i>Advanced</i>
Male	51	141	21	66	13 ↓	#
Female	49	157	10	60	29	2
White	86	151 ↓	14	62 ↑	22 ↓	1 ↓
Black	1	---	---	---	---	---
Hispanic	2	---	---	---	---	---
Asian/Pacific Islander	1	---	---	---	---	---
American Indian/Alaska Native	10	133	29	64	8	0
Free/reduced-priced school lunch						
Eligible	38	139	24	61	14	1
Not eligible	57	157 ↓	10	63 ↑	26 ↓	1 ↓
Information not available	5	141	17	71	12	0

### Average Score Gaps Between Selected Groups

- Female students in Montana had an average score that was higher than that of male students (16 points). This performance gap was not significantly different from that of the Nation (18 points).
- The sample size was not sufficient to permit a reliable estimate for Black students in Montana.
- The sample size was not sufficient to permit a reliable estimate for Hispanic students in Montana.
- Students who were not eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch had an average score that was higher than that of students who were eligible (18 points). This performance gap was not significantly different from that of the Nation (22 points).

### Writing Scale Scores at Selected Percentiles

	Scale Score Distribution		
	25 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	50 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	75 <sup>th</sup> Percentile
Montana	127	151	172 ↓
Nation (Public)	128	153	178

An examination of scores at different percentiles on the 0-300 NAEP writing scale at each grade indicates how well students at lower, middle, and higher levels of the distribution performed. For example, the data above shows that 75 percent of students in public schools nationally scored below 178, while 75 percent of students in Montana scored below 172.

# Percentage rounds to zero.

--- Reporting standards not met; sample size insufficient to permit a reliable estimate.

\* Significantly different from Montana.

↑ Significantly higher than, ↓ lower than appropriate subgroup in the nation (public).

<sup>1</sup> Comparisons (higher/lower/not different) are based on statistical tests. The .05 level was used for testing statistical significance.

<sup>2</sup> "Jurisdictions" includes participating states and other jurisdictions (such as Guam or the District of Columbia).

NOTE: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. Score gaps are calculated based on differences between unrounded average scale scores.

Visit <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/states/> for additional results and detailed information.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2002 Writing Assessment.